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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1944 No. 48

LARGEST VOLUNTARY ARMY *in the* WORLD

RIGHT HON'BLE L. S. AMERY

POLITICAL leaders and their followers do not, after all, cover the whole varied range of Indian life

FIGHTING forces too are India and they embody a long glorious tradition of valour and loyalty. India's army has expanded from a nucleus of some 200,000 to over two million—the largest voluntary army in the world

NO ONE has stated more emphatically than Lord Wavell what he owes to his Indian divisions and Indian staffs in that first campaign in which against an overwhelming army, he saved the Middle East and with it the Allied cause

INDIAN divisions have won victories from the mountains of Abyssinia to the Appennines and from Damascus to the Arno. Those who fought with them and those who fought against them have alike acknowledged their quality. Indian troops have held for the Allied cause the whole vast area of Iraq and Persia. They bore the brunt of our ill-fated retreats in Malaya and Burma, and to-day, they are effectively repaying old scores against the Japanese on the Burma front

RIGHT HON'BLE L. S. AMERY, *Secretary of State for India, in a speech in the House of Commons, on Friday, July 28. The House cheered this part of his speech*

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[Note.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* Madras War Review *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS

Germany:—"We must get through this hell of difficulties, burdens and dangers until we can breathe freely again."

—GOEBBELS *in a radio speech on July 26.*

"The Fuehrer knows that whatever happens to him was sent by God."

—GOEBBELS *on Hitler's birthday.*

❖

"It would be criminal to deny that the situation has become very grave. We need better weapons, more fanatical fighters, superior leadership, and above all more firmly knit war morale . . . For us there are only two alternatives, either we carry on the war until we win or lose all, not only as far as one class of leading National Socialists is concerned, for all Germans will lose everything. There is no honourable capitulation for us in this war—only a struggle for the last breath."

—HEINZ LIEBSCHER *in a broadcast to German forces on July 31.*

❖

Japan:—"There is only one path for the people of Japan to take. They must sacrifice themselves body and soul for the Emperor, and if the worst comes to the worst die with honour. It is a great pity that the Tojo Cabinet has resigned."

—Dr. YUICHIRO MATSUNAMI, *Professor of the Imperial University, Tokyo, on July 20.*

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" . . . the wolf is almost at the threshold . . . Truly, strategically Nippon has suffered a reverse by the loss of Saipan."

—*Singapore Domei Commentary, July 20.*

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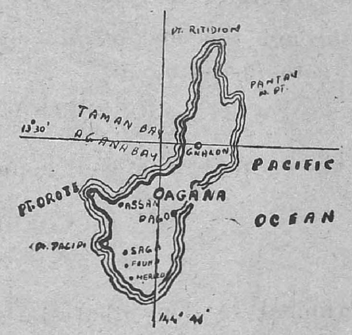
JAPAN'S SETTING SUN

WHILE the events in Europe are marching on from Allied victory to victory. with the guns of Moscow roaring out salvoes in celebration of their sweeping drive into town after town in Baltic Europe, with the biggest of all salvoes probably awaiting the capture of Warsaw: and with several German divisions in Normandy imperilled with the relentless might of our armies and air forces, while the ceaseless bombing of Germany is intensified, the world's eyes may be looking at Europe for decisive events.

YET Allied activity in the Pacific is equally momentous and keeps pace with the tightening ring which is closing around Germany. And not only in the Pacific. Affairs in Burma are also worth watching.



GUAM—The little key island in the Pacific now held by U. S. forces, is the strategic centre of vital sea-lanes to Japan, the Philippins and the South Seas. Guam is only 1,500 miles from Tokyo, easy target for raids by Super Fortresses.

now little or nothing to spare for an all-out engagement. The Japanese have seen the might of Admiral Chester Nimitz' fleet and have therefore good reasons for delaying the inevitable.

THE importance of Guam cannot be overemphasised. It lies midway between New Guinea and Japan. The Americans have now cleared the airfield and the business of using it may soon begin. We may be sure they will lose no time in taking every advantage of this key-island of the Pacific. It belongs to the same group as Saipan and was in American hands up to the time when Japan took it in December 1941. It has a fine natural harbour, but its main value is its stragetic proximity to Manilla in the Philippines and to Tokyo.

IT is more than a coincidence that the resignation on July 18th of Tojo and his Cabinet should have followed on the announcement of the loss of Saipan. The loss of this island has obviously shaken up the entire people of Japan. And since then, the American capture of other islands in the Marianas group, including the great prize of Guam is bound to have a still more devastating effect on the tautened nerves of Japan's rulers.

SO many navies have proved elusive in this war—the Italian navy which was sought after in the Mediterranean, the German navy which now lives more or less permanently under the waves, and now the Japanese navy. The Japanese Admiral, Takahasi tries new tricks nearly every day to explain to his people why his navy fails to emerge and accept battle. "Later developments took an unexpected form" he announces. Pressed still further he says, "The reason why the people are not witnessing the counter-offensive which they expected against the enemy assault is that our fleet is still devising a strategy combining the utmost accuracy and effectiveness." The truth is partly of course that Japan has lost heavily in aircraft-carriers and aircraft and has

THE Japanese are well aware of the danger that confronts them. In a pep talk in Japanese, Tokyo radio had to say "Saipan is 2,350 kilometres from Tokyo and 2,800 kilometres from the Philippines. In view of the strategic importance of this island, the loss of Saipan is indeed a matter of grave consequence to our future operations in the Pacific. In other words a serious menace. In view of this fact there is little doubt that the enemy will eventually send out B-29s from Saipan to Tokyo, for they are capable of such a round journey. The battle of the Pacific, in other words, has been brought to the very edge of our mainland proper." And what applies to Saipan applies still more forcibly to Guam. The fears of the Japs are well founded. Super Fortresses of the 20th Bomber Command attacked in daylight last Saturday industrial objectives in Mukden in Manchuria. Following on that we had the news of an attack on Tientsin.

CABINETS or no Cabinets, the one unalterable fact remains unchanged, the fact that the war situation remains unfavourable for Japan. The Cabinet change only indicates apprehension, and what the Japanese propose to do as the war shifts ever closer to their

mainland of the Rising Sun is a neat little problem for them to settle. As with Hitler and his generals in Germany the internal dissension caused by all this changing in Japan is only a source of internal friction and does not alter or lessen the danger that threatens to end all their Cabinets.

THE free world will watch with interest the next phase in the Pacific battle front. What a consolation Dr. Matsunami, Professor at the Imperial University, Tokyo, has to offer! "There is only one path for the people of Japan to take," he told them. "They must sacrifice themselves body and soul to the Emperor, and if the worst comes to the worst, die with honour."

THE voices of Japan know full well that the Land of the Rising Sun is doomed. Soon it will be the Land of the Setting Sun, the setting sun of all fascism. The operations in Burma are very satisfactory for us. The Japanese are completely cleared from the 130 miles Silchar tract, the 14th Army have nearly driven the Japs out of the Manipur area, and the town of Myitkyina is practically ours. The latest report states that close fighting is going on for the city. British submarines have also dealt a smashing blow at Jap shipping, sinking 24 vessels as well as blowing up oil tanks near Sumatra and shelling military installations in the Andamans. Topping it all is the bombardment for the third time of Sabang harbour on the north-west coast of Sumatra.

IT will be a new sun which will rise over the islands of Japan, a sun of Allied victories. Now that the Allied forces in the Pacific have the command of vital sea-lanes, producing panic amongst the Japanese in their occupied islands and menacing all their traffic to Japan, and with panic in Japan itself with the imminent danger of sudden bombing of Japanese towns which cannot stand up against the weight of modern aerial warfare, and with panic and disorder in upper Burma, with no relief in the shakingly-held occupied countries and islands all round the southern Asiatic archipelagoes, with all this panic so evident the Allies can well afford to be amused at the efforts of Japanese Cabinets to find fault with each other. Japan's once mighty sun is setting and the world of Asia and the Pacific is glad to see it go.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Red Army's March of Liberation

Not all HITLER's "intuition" will solve the terrible problem of knowing what to do to stem the grand advance of the Red Army as it pushes its way victoriously from one big town to another. The resounding salvoes have again been thundering away in Moscow to celebrate the fall of Lwow, Dvinsk, Bialystok, Stanislawow, Siauliai and Brest-Litovsk. Now at the gates of Warsaw how cheered the wretched inhabitants must be who have waited all these weary years for the day of liberation. And not only Poland, but the republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are on the verge of release from the Nazi yoke. Kovno (Kaunas), the capital of Lithuania has been taken. This is only the beginning of the Red Army's march of liberation.

* * *

Allies' Grip on Normandy

Equally commensurate in hard, steady and relentless pressure against the German war machine—which is now a pretty badly-used vehicle, being "elastic" as they say—is the big advance being made in Normandy. First Coutances and then down the coast to Granville, the next is Avranches. Breaches have been made in many places in the Nazi front, and for General EISENHOWER this advance on the western sector will prove of great strategic advantage. Time will show the results of the carefully thought-out Allied plan which is fanning and encircling the German armies. And while all this heavy fighting dismays the enemy generals, there is no respite for HITLER's home front. For two successive days, over 1,000 Allied heavy bombers attacked the Leuna synthetic oil refinery at Merseburg. In these raids and in daylight raids the U.S. and the R.A.F. have again shown fine teamwork. No wonder that prince of lies, GOEBBELS, in a howl of despair told his long suffering audience that they must get through this hell of difficulties and dangers! But, as the airmen are saying and as GOEBBELS knows, they haven't had anything yet! The flying bombs may be a nuisance, but what practical war value they have is hard to understand, unless, in spite of all the lessons the German Reich have learnt, they still naively imagine they can scare the people of Britain. The telling pictures and the daily accounts given by Londoners and others affected by these pointless wastages of German ammunition, only suggest that the Germans still have not got the secret of the psychology of courage which lives in the character of the British.

* * *

The King in Italy

This week has also been a momentous one, for Sepoy KAMAL RAM who is said to be the youngest holder of the V.C., for the ribbon of this highest Empire award was pinned on KAMAL RAM of the 8th Punjab Regiment by the King Emperor himself, on his tour in Italy. Naturally, V.C. KAMAL RAM got a terrific ovation from both British and Indian troops, being carried shoulder high. The 8th Army provided a special aircraft for this Indian lad of 19. The King toured hundreds of miles of the 8th Army sector of the Italian front by road and air, and it is but fitting that the spotlight of his visit should be focussed on an Indian soldier, for as Mr. AMERY said in the House of Commons last week, Indians have shown their valour and their loyalty on nearly every front in this war, in Africa, Asia and Europe.

* * *

High Tribute to Indian Army

The Rt. Hon. L. S. AMERY in his speech in the House of Commons last Friday brought in the right note and the right perspective when he payed full tribute to the largest voluntary army in the world. "No one has stated more emphatically than Lord WAVELL," he said, "what he owes to the Indian divisions and Indian staffs in that first campaign in which, against an overwhelming army, he saved the Middle East and with it the Allied cause." Mr. AMERY was cheered when he drew attention to the part the Indian Army had played on every front. When the

history of this war is being written what a noble heroic tale the story of the Indian Army will be. "In this unity of arms," Mr. Amery continued "racial and other differences between Indians and Europeans are transcended in one common brotherhood. There is no racial distinction in the army to-day." And truly the magnificent record and the victories already achieved are enough evidence of all that the Secretary of State for India said. No one can look at the smiling faces of the Indian officers and men without realizing how different is this *voluntary* army from the sullen wretches on whom Germany and Japan depend for the maintenance of their stolen properties.

* * *

Headaches for Japan The big sensational advances made by the Americans in the Pacific must be bitter news to the Japanese. But it is not only the immediate danger to the Japanese homeland which must be giving the new Cabinet a headache. It was Saipan which precipitated the resignation of the Tojo Government. Now that Guam and Tinian are practically entirely in American hands the worst fears of the Japs have materialized. But besides this there has been yet another attack on Sabang, destroying what was left of the harbour. Also the Super Fortresses have raided Mukden and Tientsin. The glorious 14th Army in Burma has only a few miles to clear the Manipur area, while the fall of Myitkyina and the end of that long campaign is in sight, with fighting going on in the town itself. It is obvious that not all the chopping and changing of fascist Cabinets is going to make much difference to the ultimate result. In the meantime we hail with delight the great Pacific and Burma victories. Madras has all the more reason this week in welcoming contingents of Indian troops of the renowned 14th Army who are resting before passing on to their homes where there will be tremendous rejoicings. For these men are heroes in every sense of the word—a bit tired of course—but they will say it has been worth it.

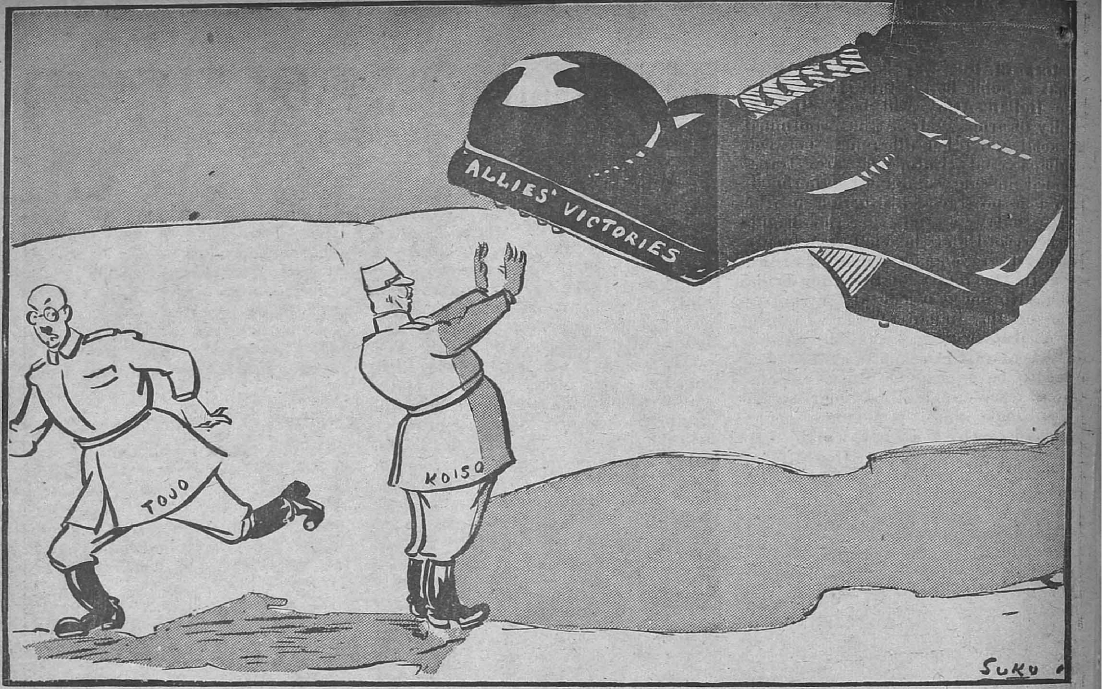
* * *

A Week of Liberation The general picture of world events which emerges this week is one of innumerable defeats for the enemy on all fronts, and for the Allies and the oppressed nations one of joyful liberation. In homes all over the world, from the great plains of Northern and Baltic Europe, where the remnants of decimated populations who have lived under the heel of the Gestapo have patiently awaited this hour, to the sturdy farming villages of Normandy where stubborn French Norman peasants meet the liberating armies with tears of joy, there is a lifting of the pall of gloom which for nearly five long years has rested on the torn face of Europe. But not only Europe. Far out in the islands of the Pacific in the isolated Marianas the island people are welcoming the arrival of the saviours from the skies. And nearer to India it is heartening to read this week that in Upper Burma conditions are resuming normality. With the sweeping away of the Japanese thieves from the valleys and villages of northern Burma the Burmese and other peoples there too will sigh with relief that the Japanese barbarians are at last being routed in confusion from their homes. It has taken many long years of hard fighting against what looked at first like insuperable odds to even dare to suggest that liberation was at hand, but who can doubt this to-day with the grand united action of all freedom loving nations on all fronts? It has been truly a week of liberation.

KING VISITS ITALY.—His Majesty King George VI, accompanied by General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson and General J. L. Devers, arriving at the Palace of Caserta for the Commander-in-Chief's official luncheon.

VICTORIOUS SOLDIERS RETURN HOME

A leave party of 400 to 500 Indian troops arrived in Madras on 27th night. These men from our victorious army on the Burma front were met at the Central Station by the Sub-area Commander and members of his staff and by the Indian Hospitality Committee. The troops were warmly welcomed and given refreshments before proceeding on to their homes.



LIBERATED

(*By* R.G.)

The peasants return,
following behind the victorious armies.
They set down their bundles
and sorrowfully scar the street
battered out of familiarity.
What are these shells of rubble ?
Where are the horses and the oxen
which should be rustling in the straw,
regarding their masters with patience
or greedy expectation ?
and the ploughs ? and the hoes ?
They look, they shamble through the mud
(for the paving is gone, and the craters,
big and little, gaps, and ooze
is spread thick after the spring thaw).
The school-house stares eyeless,
grins gap-toothed : its roof has lost
the tiles so carefully, so proudly laid :
in the first passage is horses' dung
and in the second
dead horses covered in clay, stinking.
They say " Who can believe
the swine were so filthy ? "
They say " It will take years
to clean our village of the mess."
They say " There is seed to sow
but where shall we get tractors
and ploughs ? "
They say " Let us begin.
There are yet two hours to dusk."

NEW PLANS FOR W.A.C. (I)

" I am delighted to find so many Indian women in the Corps which it is my privilege to come to India to lead ", said the Countess of Carlisle, newly appointed Chief Commander of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India), who is now at work at her headquarters at G.H.Q., New Delhi.

" Even in the short time since my arrival I have seen much evidence of the good work being done by the Corps. But many more women are needed.

" As soon as possible I intend to visit W.A.C. (I) units in all parts of India personally to acquaint myself with them, and their working and living conditions.

" We have many projects on foot for the Corps. Perhaps the most far-reaching of these are the opening of recruit training centres. These will give a good grounding in Service matters and provide a bridge between civil and Service life. For those girls who wish to serve as clerks a clerical course will follow recruit training.

" We are also arranging two months' courses for mess sergeants and mess caterers. This should facilitate the catering in our hostels.

" We have plans for training officers, both for corps and staff work. Our aim is to provide more and more women of all ranks to help the army in the war against Japan which is so surely gathering strength.

" I say to the women of India that our work is work which any woman should be proud to undertake."

PAPER CONTROL ORDER

By Sir AKBAR HYDARI

I have come here in the hope that by meeting round this table we will be able to understand each other's difficulties better than it is possible to do by correspondence and by taking counsel together to find a solution for them. I have not been surprised at the volume of criticism which has been levelled at us nor indeed at the violence and heat of the remonstrances. This was to be expected. I propose that after the few explanatory remarks which I will make there should be a general discussion which I hope will be kept as short as possible. Thereafter I suggest that you should discuss matters among yourselves and that we should then meet in the late afternoon today or tomorrow morning to consider the concrete suggestions which you all or a small Committee appointed by yourselves could put forward on your behalf for our consideration. I have with me here those of my officers who are directly concerned with the administration of the Order including the Paper Controller and if as I hope we can come to a working agreement within the framework of the Order the arrangements consequent thereon will be carried out without loss of time and with a minimum of correspondence. I must make it clear however that our discussions must be based on the acceptance of the main feature of the Order which is that there must be a cut of 70 per cent in consumption not necessarily of each individual but taking the consumers of paper as a whole.

MISAPPREHENSIONS

There seems to be an impression among some of our critics that this Order was something which was hatched in the dark recesses of the Secretariat and produced without notice on an unsuspecting public. That is not the case. The public have known for many months past that Government intended to control the distribution and the use of paper. None of us in the Department has ever made any secret of it. Nor is it a fact that this Order is the creation of the bureaucratic brain acting unaided. We have for the last three months or more been in active consultation with those who might be expected to know a great deal about the distribution and the use of paper. We have also drawn largely on the experience of the United Kingdom in the framing of the Control Order. It has been widely criticized as unworkable. To quote Oliver Cromwell "I beseech Ye in the bowels of Christ, think! perchance Ye may be mistaken"; that the cry that this is an unworkable Order has its basis not in the impracticability of its provisions but because the cut in consumption has shocked you; but, Gentlemen, the position of the civil consumer of paper is at the present moment such that until supplies improved only Draconian measures will insure that the poor consumer of paper will get something of what he needs. I have not been impressed by some of the representations which we have received in which presses and publishers have questioned the need for such drastic economy because they state that they have always been able to obtain paper. Yes, but at whose expense? It is at the expense of those very educational institutions and cultural publications whose interest it is alleged that Government are neglecting. It is difficult for consumers who are neither rich nor powerful to make their voices heard and it is exactly, they, the schools, the small businessmen, the Universities, the man who cannot get his book published because he cannot afford the high prices at which alone he can obtain supplies—it is those classes whose wants, it is hoped, if this Order is worked efficiently and with your goodwill will be better served than they have been recently.

We have tried the voluntary method of paper distribution. The distribution of paper has so far been undertaken by the Paper Control and Distribution Association. They have tried to do their best but with diminishing supplies and increasing demands it is abundantly clear that distribution to be effective must be done by Government under a statutory umbrella.

PRODUCTION

We have also been criticized for neglecting to increase production of paper. Let me give a few figures. The production of paper in India during the three years 1936–37 to 1938–39 averaged 54,000 tons. After the outbreak of the war and thanks to Government assistance and encouragement and the rationalization as far as it was practicable of the varieties of paper manufactured the annual production was doubled till it amounted to over 100,000 tons per annum. Unfortunately owing to the shortage of coal production has dropped and for the current year, 1944–45, we cannot expect more than 70,000 tons from indigenous production. You may be interested to know that while all the industries have had to bear a cut to meet the coal shortage paper is one of the few industries which Government regard of such importance that the cut imposed on it is much less than on most others.

IMPORTS

So much for production. Now let us look at the picture so far as imports are concerned. For the three years 1936–37 to 1938–39 the average annual imports of paper into India amounted to 75,500 tons. The estimated import through trade channels for 1944–45 is 9,000 tons. The actual figure for 1943–44 was 8,800 tons. Now let me deal with a point about which to be quite blunt a good deal of nonsense has been talked. It is alleged that there is plenty of paper to be had in the United Kingdom if only Government would issue import licences in sufficient number and with the speed with which business houses are accustomed to do their business. What are the facts? His Majesty's Government give us a quarterly quota which for July-October 1943 was 440 tons, for November 1943 to February 1944 400 tons and March–June 1944 500 tons. We have been informed by the Secretary of State that the allocation for November 1943 to February 1944 has been fully utilized. In a letter, dated the 14th of June, it is stated on the authority of the leading manufacturers of the United Kingdom that no difficulties have been experienced in obtaining Indian import licences and that all orders on the manufacturers' books are covered by licences. The Chief Controller of Imports has been kind enough to inform me further that he has been issuing licences considerably in excess of the quantities allocated to India. I submit, Gentlemen, that this particular cock (of Government dilatoriness) simply won't fight.

HARD REALITIES

Therefore to sum up: the present position for 1944–45 is that with imports by the trade of 9,000 tons and a production of 70,000 tons, the available supplies of paper in sight are of the order of 79,000 tons. The 70 per cent of Indian production reserved for

SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

(*By* R.G.)

CANTO III—*Third Instalment.*

The news that Mussolini's men
Were on the march arrived just then.
Across the torrid Libyan waste
They moved, without excessive haste:
And crossing the Egyptian border
Sat down again, without disorder.
Seshiah knew of geography
Enough to know that this must be
A menace to his own repose:
For, Egypt fallen to his foes
And Suez in their hands, they might
Grab Aden with another bite
And swarm across the seas afar
To Gujerat and Malabar.
The British held the desert gate;
But could they bring up not too late
The tanks and planes and guns to stem
The huge flood pouring over them?
The French have given up Algier
And Graziani has no fear
Of swift reprisals in his rear,
However much the Frenchman itches
To kick him in his well-cut breeches.
And English ships must plough the Atlantic
And round the Cape while generals frantic
Make every file look like a column
To trick the enemy near Sollum.

Seshiah was distinctly worried
And off to the big town he scurried
And chanced to hear the local Pan-
jandrum, a young and worthy man,
Discoursing of the need for beating
The Nazis, at a public meeting:
From which Seshiah gained a new
Enlargement of his widening view.
This not-so-great Panjandrum made
Of facts and figures no parade
But asked all who might feel as he did
To think what most their country needed,
Threatened on one side by the German
(Adolf and Heinrich, Hans and Hermann),
And on the other side exposed,
While self-professing patriots dozed,
To sudden peril from the Jap
Who in the middle of their nap
Might come down like a thunderclap.
'Twas true the fort of Singapore
Existed like an armoured door:
But men and planes to hold the bar
Were hard to come by while the war
Was putting Britain to the test
In Africa and further west.
When Indian troops were sent to help
The Party patriots raised a yelp
And from the legislative halls
With metaphorical catcalls
Departed, shaking off their feet
The dust of their neglected seat.

Government requirements amounts to 49,000 tons leaving the quantity for the public including imports by the trade at 30,000 tons. As against this our pre-war consumption of paper was 110,000 tons. Here Gentlemen, you have the answer to the limit placed under the Order for civil consumption. It is not a limit arbitrarily fixed. It is a limit imposed by the hard realities of the situation. I hope that we will be able to show you in the course of discussion that the provisions of the Order are not unworkable and that there is scope within the Order itself for the exercise of discretion which even during the short time between the promulgation of the Order and now we have exercised in several instances and so tempered the wind. The fact must however be faced that your profits will be reduced by the operation of the Order; for under it you will not be able to print and publish as much as the fortunate ones among you who had stocks of paper in the past have been able to consume during the last 4½ years; but as against a diminution of your profits and the inconveniences to the business community incidental on any control we hope that the Order will bring relief to many who are now in dire need of paper.

SITUATION WILL IMPROVE

The situation is not however without hope. Government has been trying for sometime past to arrange on Government account the import from North America of a substantial tonnage of paper. If that eventuates as I hope it will we will lose no time in softening the severity of the cut in consumption. Let me assure you once again that we do not like imposing the present cut. I have given you some account of the attempts we have made in avoiding having to impose it. I have also just now told you that if our luck holds and we obtain the expected imports we may be able to raise the present minimum overall figure. You should gather assurance from the way we have worked the Newsprint Control. We have lightened its severity whenever we thought we could prudently do so; and even when we lost a large quantity of paper in the recent Bombay explosion we decided that this loss notwithstanding the concessions allowed to the users of newsprint should not be withdrawn.

I know that the Order has hit you hard but I have tried to explain the reasons which compelled us to take this step and I repeat again that we are prepared within the framework of the Order and without giving up the objective of an overall reduction in consumption to 30 per cent to be as accommodating as we can. I hope therefore that you will after reflection and discussion co-operate with Government in making this Order successful; and I am sure that if you once reconcile yourselves to the fact that you must suffer in the public interest a diminution of your profits and may be of your business, you will find that the Order can be worked and so tide over a very difficult time till increased supplies give you relief.

[This is Sir Akbar Hydari's speech at the Paper Conference held in Bombay on 18th July 1944.]

BRITISH BREAK-THROUGH IN NORMANDY

British infantry ready to board a tank while assembling for the attack east of Caen

British break-through in Normandy—A Bailey bridge built by British troops across the Caen Canal

The soldiers were being drilled in the village square, watched by a little group of the residents.

"Company! Two paces forward—march!" bawled out the sergeant major.

"Now, isn't that just like them chaps!" said an old lady amongst the spectators. "Why couldn't he take two paces forward himself instead of moving the whole regiment?"

After attacking an enemy ship the submarine dived and waited for the depth-charges. Almost immediately one exploded so near that the submarine heeled over, the lights went out, and the alarm bell rang loudly.

For a moment there was silence. Then a voice in the darkness said brightly:

"Give the gent a coconut, Bill. He's rung the bell!"

RECRUITMENT FOR THE DEFENCE SERVICES

The Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore has recently sanctioned the extension of Recruiting for the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Navy in Mysore State. A Recruiting office will shortly be opened in Mysore City and eventually sub-officers will be established in all District Headquarters starting with Kolar, Kadur and Shimoga. Facilities for recruitment already exist in Bangalore at the office of the Assistant Recruiting Officer, Cornwallis Barracks, near Trinty Church, Bangalore.

MYSORE'S CONTRIBUTION

The State of Mysore has already made a vast contribution to the War efforts both in materials and men for the Technical Branches of the Services and this extension of recruitment opens up a very wide range of choice for fit young men who wish to offer their services.

Large numbers of recruits are urgently required for the **Royal Indian Navy** and the Indian Army, and all men above the age of 17½ whether educated or uneducated can enrol in either service, according to their suitability as regards education and physical standards.

The Recruiting office in Mysore City will be under control of the Assistant Recruiting Officer, Mysore, and there will be extra Assistant Recruiting Officers at the District Headquarters offices, each with an independent staff or recruiters.

The Recruiting Staff, who wear uniform, can be identified by their green arm bands and lanyards. Green sign-boards will be erected shortly indicating the whereabouts of all Recruiting officers.

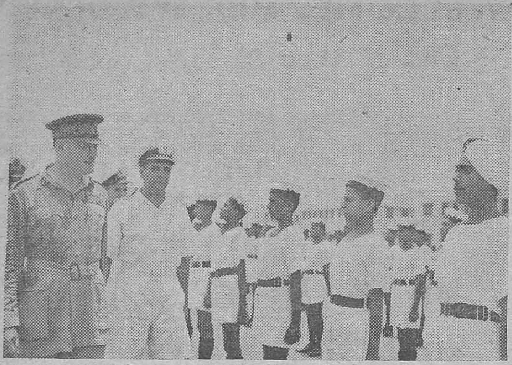
FACILITIES

The officers and the recruiters will constantly tour all large towns and villages throughout Mysore State and will give all help and advice to prospective recruits. From the moment a recruit decides to join the Army free transport by bus or train to the nearest Recruiting office is provided with free meals while travelling and while staying at the recruiting offices pending selection and medical examination.

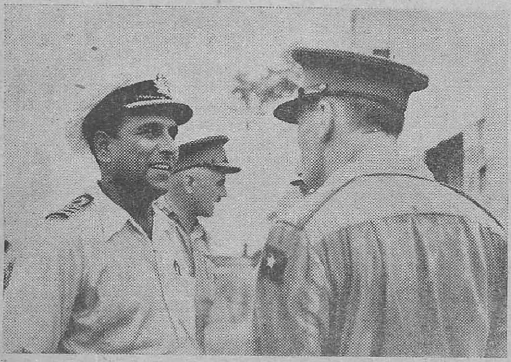
Even if found unfit for any reason, the recruit is sent back to his village free of all cost to himself.

It is hoped that many Mysoreans will take advantage of the present opportunity to enrol in the Defence Services of India.

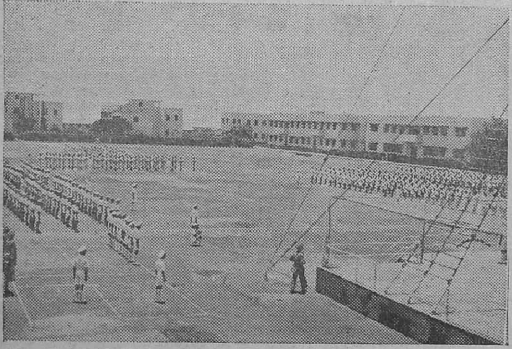
At a meeting held in Mysore during the Birthday festivities to celebrate the Second Anniversary of the National War Front in Mysore State, an address was given by Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-IN-C., Southern Army, on South India's War Effort.



The Commander-in-Chief accompanied by Commander S. G. Karmarkar, M.B.E., R.I.N.R., the Commanding Officer, inspects boys of H.M.I.S. Bahadur.



The Commander-in-Chief chatting with Commander S. G. Karmarkar, M.B.E., R.I.N.R., the Commanding Officer of H.M.I.S. Bahadur.



General view of the parade in H.M.I.S. Bahadur. *The Commander-in-Chief took the salute from the quarter-deck.*

C.-IN-C. VISITS R.I.N. ESTABLISHMENTS

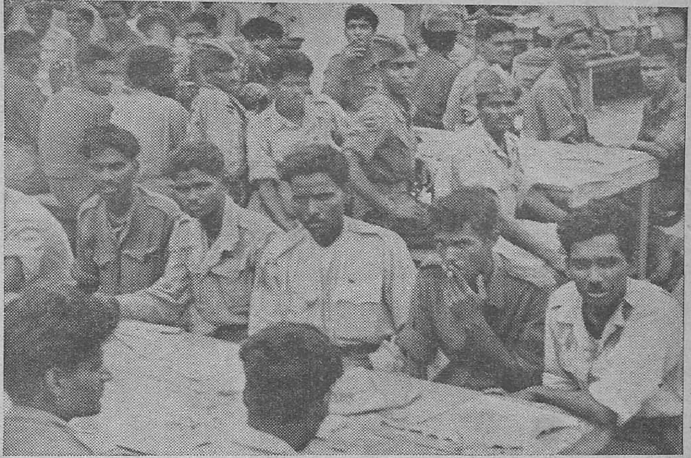
During his recent visit to Karachi, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, visited two fine training establishments of the Royal Indian Navy, H.M.I.S. *Himalaya*, the up-to-date and well-equipped Gunnery School, and H.M.I.S. *Bahadur*, the Boys' Training Establishment. In H.M.I.S. *Himalaya*, which was opened in November last, he saw Naval officers and hundreds of ratings learning the principles and practice of Naval gunnery. Smart young sailors from all parts of India were inspected by him in H.M.I.S. *Bahadur*, which prepares boys for a career in the Royal Indian Navy.

KARACHI—CRADLE OF INDIAN NAVY

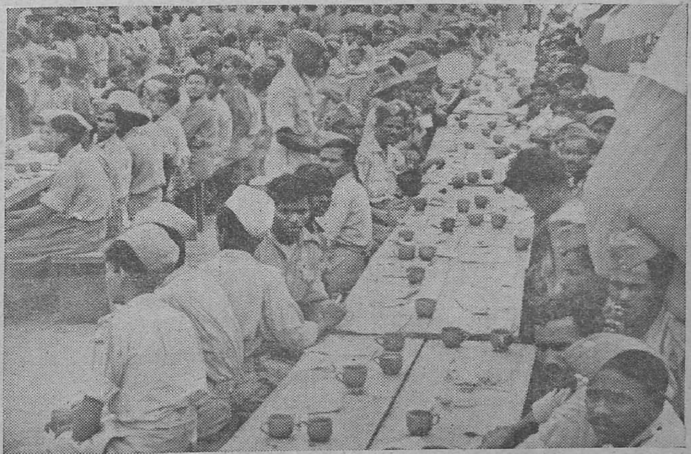
Speaking at Karachi on July 1st Commodore A. R. Cattray, described Karachi as "The Cradle of India's Navy," and called upon the "young men and women of India to help to ensure the success of naval operations which are the foundation of the colossal combined enterprises which lie ahead."

The Commodore said "Indian ships and their crews have already proved their worth in this war. Men from the shores of India together with those whose homes are situated a thousand miles and more from the sea coasts, have come to learn the ways of the sea and how to ensure the safety of their homeland. India's naval forces have expanded to more than twenty times their strength in ships and men since 1939. Many new weapons have been introduced and new branches opened."

MADRAS WELCOMES HER WARRIORS FROM BURMA



These two pictures give a slight idea of the welcome given this week in the Moore Pavillion close to Central Station, to a few of the hundreds of South Indian heroes of the great 14th Army just down on leave and before their dispersal to their homes. They are tired but proud and happy. We salute them.



HE PLANS THE JUNGLE AIR STRIPS

Meet the man who conjures airstrips out of the jungles, forests and shrubs of forward areas on the Burma front. He is Capt. John Priestman, R.E. of Seddlescomberoad North, St. Keonards.

It is on Capt. Priestman that the responsibility for siting and mapping forward airfields rests. Before he went to Hastings as civil engineer with the Borough Engineer in 1937 he served for a period with the Air Ministry, where the work was somewhat similar.

Now, as a field engineer with a forward airfield engineer unit Capt. Priestman fulfils any order from higher up for the locating and mapping up of an airfield near the firing line. This necessitates a difficult and often dangerous journey over rough ground well into the forward area.

Often superhuman efforts are required to lift vehicles out of the treacherous mud; there are times when an elephant does the trick with one effortless heave.

After the siting comes the order from aerial photographs. When these are pieced together and studied Capt. Priestman returns to the site to carry out a complete survey and reconnaissance. Then the detail is filled in.

First comes a rough sketch of where the various administration and operational areas are to go—explosives, dispersal, domestic, and petrol followed by a siting board. From his small scale map the final stage is a large scale drawing showing every building and site. The finished plan is then handed to the engineer battalion, whose job it is to go forward and put the work in hand.

A Cumbrian from Carlisle, Capt. Priestman whose wife is temporarily living with relatives at Lancaster, has a tricky job locating suitable spots for air fields in the hill jungle terrain of his area. The going is often undecidedly rough but he is happy in the knowledge that this is a job that is right up his street.

MONSOON JUST A SHOWER.

West African Overseas Force troops on the Burma border are now soldiering on through their fifth monsoon, writes a West African force Observer.

Since the beginning of the war they have trained and campaigned through four rainy seasons of the West Coast. Now they have exchanged the rains of West Africa for the rains of Burma.

Thousands of British troops who sailed to India and the Middle East via West Africa experienced for a few days while at anchor the non-stop vertical rain storms of the West Coast and heard the rolling thunder of the "Lion Mountains" of Sierra Leone.

West Africans serving in India and Burma, accustomed to a May–September rainfall of from 120 to 140 inches, are taking the Burma monsoon in their stride.

As an officer from Bradford said, kicking the mud of his boots, "Why, they get more rain back home."

Tailpiece.—The Burma border includes the wettest region in the world Cherrapunji, Assam, with an average of 429 inches a year (one year it was 905), West African's wettest is Victoria, British Cameroons, with an average of 400 to 430 (Encyclopædia Britannica Figures).

A 'SIDELIGHT' FROM St. DUNSTAN'S.

Sir Ian Fraser, St. Dunstan's, 9-11, *Park Crescent, London, W.I., has written the following letter, dated 5th July* 1944, *to the Honorary Secretary, Kodaikanal Club.*

We are exceedingly grateful to you and the members of the Kodaikanal Club Amateur Dramatic Society for sending us the generous contribution of twenty-eight pounds, sixteen shillings and four pence being the proceeds of an Amateur Dramatic Performance. Will you please accept our warm thanks and, if possible, have it conveyed to all those who helped to collect this sum. Thank you all so much.

I have good accounts of the work being carried out in our Indian Training Centre at Dehra Dun, and the other day I was most interested to meet Sir Firoz Khan Noon, who had visited our Centre shortly before coming to England and was able to give me a first-hand account of the men and work.

Here in England our work is going well. At the end of last month we moved our hospital from Shropshire to considerably further South. During the past year it has become increasingly difficult to get specialists and surgeons to Shropshire to treat the cases with additional disabilities to blindness, so we have now arranged to have two large wards in a big E.M.S. hospital, so that we will be in easy reach of surgeons and doctors who now have less instead of more time to spend in travelling. All our rehabilitation and training work will of course to be carried out in Shropshire.

Three St. Dunstaners from German prison camps were among the party of repatriated prisoners of war who recently arrived in this country. Only one of these men is totally blind. He received his injuries from a German grenade in Sicily. He told us how he was the only Englishman at the German clinic to which he was taken for the first three months of his captivity and of his great joy when one day someone opened the door and an English voice said "Hullo, there." After that he was moved to another hospital where there were a crowd of British lads and one of them helped him to learn braille. Last October twenty-seven blinded prisoners of war repatriated and came to St. Dunstan's and so far as we know there are still a small number of blinded soldiers in Germany. We understand that they are being well looked after by Roman Catholic Sisters and that they are fortunate in having as their British Medical Officer the man who did so much to help the twenty-seven men who were repatriated and came to us last October.

It may interest you to know that we have a Dramatic Society at our Training Centre and every Christmas they produce a play in which all the actors are blind or nearly blind. Some years ago we had Esmond Knight, the actor, at our Officers' house. Knight joined the R.N.V.R. at the outbreak of war and was blinded on the "Prince of Wales" in the action against the "Bismark." Fortunately he has recovered a little sight in his remaining eye which has enabled him to return to the Stage and also to act in a number of films. He has just been playing in an amusing play called "Crisis In Heaven" by Eric Linklater. He manages his very limited vision with amazing skill.

Again thanking you all so much for remembering us and with our good wishes.

The old farmer found an unexploded anti-aircraft shell in his back-yard. Picking it up gingerly, he walked into the road and got on the first bus going to the nearest town.

"What's that you've got on your lap?" asked the conductor as he took his fare.

"Why, that be an unexploded shell, that be," said the farmer. "I be taking 'ee to the police station, for sure."

"Blimey, mate, don't carry it on your lap," said the conductor nervously: "shove it under the seat!"

PROUD NEWS FOR REMOTE VILLAGE

Bholupura, the village in Karauli State which is the home of 20-year old Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, the Indian Army's tenth V.C., is a tiny collection of mud huts deep in the heart of the Indian countryside near Gangapur, on the B.B.C.I. line 90 miles south-west from Muttra. To reach it I waded across 13 miles of flooded countryside and submerged roads, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Standing in three feet of water which marked the twists and turns of Bholupura's only lane, the hero's aged father, Sheo Chand, was delighted to receive a visitor from the "Lat Sahib." Above the swirl of the floods and the beat of the monsoon rains he shouted an invitation to me to come to his hut.

It was a single-room mud building protected from the worst of the rain by sacking hanging over the windows and the doorway. Scrupulously clean, the room was filled with the delicious smell of the evening meal being cooked. The only illumination was that given by a wick dipped in an earthenware saucer full of oil. Flashes of lightning occasionally lit up the old man's eager face.

"Yes—My son has been given a great inam," he said.

Above the rumble of thunder the hero's father shouted for his two other sons. When they came, their wet bodies gleaming in the flickering light, he told them briefly the reason for the visit. When they fully understood they ran excitedly out of the hut to spread the news.

Before long almost the entire male population of the little village, some 50 or 60 men, had gathered outside Sheo Chand's home. With the flood water rushing past their knees and heavy rain drenching them they pressed forward for an opportunity to congratulate their neighbour.

"I have three sons," Sheo Chand told me. "Kamal Singh, my youngest, is 12 years old. One day he too, will join the 8th Punjab Regiment. My eldest son, Kalwar, does most of my work in the fields. I cannot let him join up for he is my livelihood.

"My wife died about ten years ago. How proud she would have been to hear how brave Kamal Ram has been."

AIRMAN'S FATHER WRITES TO MAHARAJA.

Mr. J. H. Mathews, of 44, Virgel street, Grangetown, Cardiff, father of an airman serving in India, has written to the Maharaja of Jodhpur, the famous Indian Prince, to express his appreciation of the hospitality which the Maharaja has given to men of the R.A.F.

"Please permit me to thank you for the great interest you are taking in our grand lads who have the privilege to be in your great country while serving in the R.A.F. for our grand King and Empire" he says. "May you live long and happily to carry on the good work to bring our two countries very much nearer to each other."

SMASHING WAR AT SEA

HOW MARIANAS WERE TAKEN

SUMMARISING the war at sea, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal revealed recently that "by far the greatest" number of Japanese ever taken prisoner in one operation were captured when the Americans took Saipan. After this campaign, the battle-worn American troops rested only ten days and then flowed on to the beaches of Tinian Island, where a battle still rages. Fresh United States troops were brought in for the concurrent invasion of Guam. The text of Mr. Forrestal's statement follows:—

ATLANTIC

"*Atlantic.*—The roll of large combatant ships in the Normandy operation is diminishing. Although bombardment of shore positions by Allied naval vessels continues in some sectors, the inward thrust of the Normandy bridgehead has reduced assistance which can be offered by surface ships. Enemy minelaying activity off the bridgehead, coast, frequently by air, continues to call for prompt counter measures by Allied minesweepers. Clashes between small craft continue.

PACIFIC

"*Pacific.*—Guam, Tinian and Saipan are keys which will unlock the door to Japan, the Philippines and the China coast. Their occupation will give us bases aggregating approximately 300 square miles, containing eight airfields and five harbours, within 1,500 miles of Japan and the Philippines. As Admiral King has said, 1,500 miles is the practical radius for fleet operations. We are approximately as far from Japan and the Philippines as the (Panama) Canal Zone is from New Orleans or the Virgin Islands are from New York.

"We have rebounded a long way since December 9, 1941, the day on which Guam fell. We have still a long way to go. From Guam to Tokyo is farther than from Bougainville to Guam—and somewhere along the route the enemy must fight us with all remaining strength.

"Sea, air, land forces, fighting in the Marianas, have demonstrated staying power unparalleled in naval warfare. They now have been on the offensive more than six weeks. A great armada of warships and supply vessels have operated within 550 to 1,500 miles of the enemy home islands without serious injury from Japanese air, surface or submarine forces. On several occasions they have fought closer to the enemy's main base than their own advance base.

"These facts attest to the power and versatility of the fleets under Admiral Nimitz—and to the skill of their commanders. They also show that the United States Navy has achieved the mobility and 'reach' which its commanders have sought since the beginning of the war.

FINE TEAM-WORK

"Resumption of our offensive operations in the Marianas, by our landings on Guam and Tinian with comparative ease, reflects the importance of the defeat we inflicted on the Japanese fleet June 19–20. Knowledge that it was impracticable for the enemy fleet to interfere with our operations made it possible for us to conduct a sustained, systematic, crushing bombardment of the enemy's beach defences with both aircraft and surface craft.

"The success of this softening up is indicated in reports that the landings on Guam were the smoothest conducted to date and went off on schedule to the minute. We took the beaches, the area which all past experience indicated would be the bloodiest spot, with comparatively light losses. Our difficulties have come later in digging the Japanese out of inland gullies and caves.

"It is desired to stress the team-work involved in these operations and the firm control of sea and air which is permitting us to gain and control ground. Army and Navy aircraft first spied out the region, then Navy aircraft and surface ships smashed the Japanese air arm and chased enemy ships not only from the vicinity of the Marianas but also from Volcano and Bonin islands to the north. Then before troops moved ashore, approximately 5,000 air sorties were made on Guam proper between July 10 and 21. Our heaviest day of aerial attack was July 20 when over 1,400 sorties dumped 466 tons of bombs on enemy troops and installations.

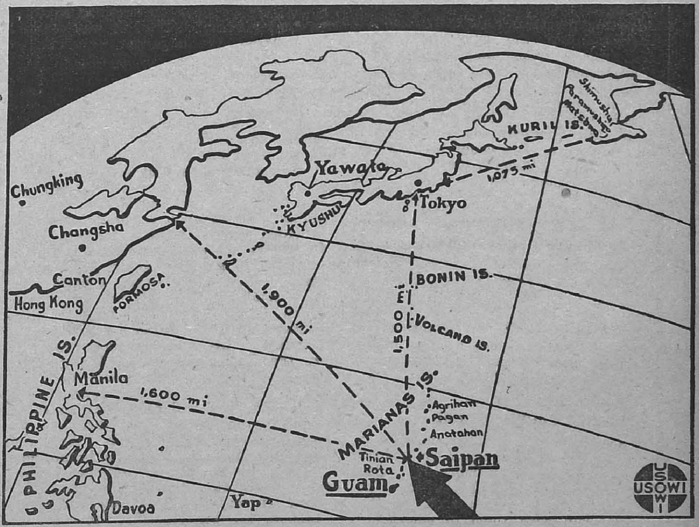
GUAM

"Also aiding in the campaign to take Guam has been the assistance received from General MacArthur. Aircraft of his command have helped by making repeated raids upon enemy air-bases in the Central and Western Carolines. These attacks plus those by land-based Army planes in the Central Pacific have been instrumental in preventing the Japanese from making any important air attack from the flank.

"On Guam our casualties have been moderate, those of the enemy have been heavy. In repulsing only one of the Japanese counter attacks we killed at least 270 of them. This is over three-fourths the number of our own dead in the first two days of the attack.

(*Continued on page* 16)

SAIPAN POINTS THREE WAYS AT JAPAN'S VITALS



Importance of recent capture of Saipan Island is indicated by above USOWI map which shows island's nearness to Japan proper, to the occupied China coast and to the Philippines. With new Saipan bases the American fleet can now lash at any of these targets with perfect ease. Nearby Guam, recently invaded by United States forces, possesses several splendid harbours which will augment the fleet's operational advantages inside Japan's vital home waters. Fresh gains are currently reported on Guam and beachheads were established on Tinian Island.

ESCAPE TO FREE CHINA

By A Chinese Student

LIKE Lisbon in Europe, Shanghai became the international port of Asia after the outburst of the so-called "China Incident." It's called the isolated island of China, since there are no regular communications between Shanghai and Free China. But we students in the International Settlement and French Concession still had the privilege of helping our government by printing leaflets and pamhlets to steady the unsettled minds of people and give them confidence that the final victory will come soon.

But when the Police saw the leaflets they tore them up and delivered the posters to the Japanese authorities. The most daring task was to post a large placard, on which was written "Down with Japan," on the back of a Japanese military truck when it was stopped by the traffic light. When the light changed, what a scene it was, you can imagine, as the truck went speeding along the Nanking Road, the busiest street in Shanghai.

LEAVING SHANGHAI

Then came the outbreak of the so-called Greater East Asia War. In the dawn of December 8, 1941, the Japs marched in to occupy the isolated International Settlement. Under their "Let the Chinese keep China for Japan" policy, they established a system, very similar to the one the Germans are working in France. If anything happened in a certain district, the leading person of this district would be arrested and the whole area blockaded from outside, and neither food nor anything else could be sent in. The barbed wires would not be removed until the unknown person was caught. For this reason, our student patrollers had to kill themselves after carrying out any operation, in order to keep the people in that district from starvation. Life became more and more dangerous to us, for every day saw some students arrested and nothing has been known about them ever since. Every one was planning now to go to Free China but not many had their plans realised, because of their family. So we are a lucky three, Wong, Ming and I.

There are three main routes from Shanghai to Free China, in the north, the central and the south. As north-western China needs youths more urgently, we decided to take the northern route.

JAP LESSONS PROVE USEFUL

It was July 17, as I remember, that we gathered at the northern railway terminus in the early morning. Each of us carried a bag and a suitcase not exceeding fifty pounds apiece, so that we could run with them in emergency. We went separately to the Japanese police for examination. Many a student was horror-stricken by the way and failed in answering the tricky questions the police put and they were put in jail immediately. That time the Japanese lessons we had been forced to learn in the school really did something for us. I bowed and opened my baggage before he said anything and answered him that I'm going to bring my sick brother home. When he asked where and for what I go, the policeman gave me a suspicious look but still he let me pass. There are about ten examinations by the Japanese police along the route. The farther we went the worse the examinations were. We were lucky that we had learned to present things before the police took them. We had learned in Shanghai that most of them like the photos of pretty girls, so we had carried with us dozens of portraits of movie stars. Our fate also depended upon his gambling fortunes. If he had won a lot last night at Mah Jongg, it wouldn't be hard for you to pass. On the other hand, one's suitcase would be the gold mine for his treasure digging. Watch, fountain pen and gold were the most favoured. If one hesitated in saying, "Sure, I'm glad to present it to you," a shower of blows would come as a lesson before he took it.

ROUGH GOING

When arriving at the first main stopping place, a rumour was heard that there were skirmishes in front. We were obliged to change our course by leaving the railway. On the map you will find the distance can be covered by train in five hours, but we had to spend fifteen days in circling around. In that circling, half of it was covered by walking, the baggages were carried by pulling vehicles. The soil of that area is just like the wild west of America; water is scarce, and sand and dust rose high. Under the scorching sun of midsummer, our sweat poured out rapidly and the dust covered it immediately. At first we rubbed it with our towels, but soon the towels were soaked with dust and dried out. We fed on saltless noodles. We slept on the ground upon a bundle of straws provided by the wayside farmers. For four days we walked in that boundless plain with nothing to be seen that's pleasure to the eyes—even a little river or a small jungle. It's the same plain which Pearl Buck had used as the background in her famous novel, "Good Earth." This area is now controlled by the Quisling forces of Wang Ching Wei. They are even worse than the Japs. Things that the Japanese see no worth they will take. An examination is the ransack by three to five men on each case. Each takes what he likes and says that it's brand new, for things brand new are not allowed to be carried. Luckily we had advice that in cases like these, we should talk to the highest officer present, and the stars' portraits again proved effective. But on the noon of the fourth day after leaving the railway, as we arrived at the foremost front of the Quisling peace-talking army, it lost its power. We paid six thousand dollars as our passing fee.

There are about five miles between the two frontiers. It's a land of no governments. Robbers, gangsters and blackmailers were the famous productions of that area. As our baggage was so little, we were fortunately left free of their attentions.

About 4 p.m., when we were running with the coolie who was pulling our baggage vehicle, in horror that anything may happen at any moment in that evil ground, suddenly Wong shouted: "Look, what's this that's flying over the hill, isn't it our national flag? Yes, it is." As our eyes followed his finger point, we all saw it flying in the sunlight, so beautiful over that solitary plain. Forgetting the sore heat and pouring sweat, we ran with all our force towards it, and left the baggage forgotten. As we approached nearer, a soldier behind a tree stopped us for examination. We showed him the small photo of our college diploma which we had hidden all the way. He smiled and said: "Sorry, I have disturbed you, but it's my duty. You must have come a hard way brothers, you are welcome." And he saluted us. I can never describe the excitement we felt that moment, when we saluted him back with our dirty hands. For six years we had been surrounded in that isolated International Settlement by the evils, borne and suffered as a cage of prisoners. At last we were standing on the ground of Free China. Our hearts were so light though our feet were so heavy when we looked back to the place we had come from. We could take a rifle now to go fighting to avenge our brethren who had been killed by the Japs. But our country needs us more than just being a soldier. China needs skilled men more, to build it up, than for defeating Japanese. We had not learned enough to be specialists. We must learn something more before going to work. So west again we came.

Owing to the military transportations there are few motor cars left for civilian uses. Most of those left would surely be looked on as scrap metals in the United States, but, burning charcoal, they still serve. There are no passenger cars in service. All are trucks. Passengers have to sit upon the baggage which is piled even higher than the surrounding boards. As the trucks are so rare more passengers than the normal twenty-four are always carried by one truck.

Now here we are, three freshmen-to-be in the North Western University at Chung Kou, Shansi Province. Stockingless and having only a cotton padded gown as an overcoat, we are sure that our friends in Shanghai would not recognize us if they passed us on the street. We had lost all our clothes in those police examinations. But that means nothing to us, we are in Free China. To our friends, who were obliged to stay in Shanghai, we give our best wishes that they will not have to wait long to see us return. And it's our duty to cut time short.

—*A recent B.B.C. Broadcast.*

IRAQ RAILWAYS IN WARTIME

IN four years of war, the internal communications of the Middle Eastern countries have sometimes bent under the enormous strain placed upon them, but they have never broken. The case of Iraq is typical. This country has not been a battlefield but it has been and still is one of the main arteries of supplies to Russia as well as a junction for the transport of Allied men and munitions and training ground for Allied troops, writes a Baghdad correspondent to the *Manchester Guardian*.

The correspondent adds: In addition to all this Iraq is an ever increasing source of raw materials, in particular, of oil. To meet these accumulating demands, Iraq started off with limited road and river facilities and a small but efficient railway network. This system dated only from the last war and by 1939 amounted to a total of 1,555 kilometres, of which all except the standard gauge stretch linking Baghdad with Turkey and Syria was metre gauge.

In 1936, an agreement was reached between the Iraq Government and Great Britain by which railways became State-owned with a certain number of Englishmen in some of the most important technical posts.

Although one of the terms of the Anglo-Iraq treaty of 1930 was that all Iraq communications should be available to Britain in time of war, it was not until 1941 that the military situation made any wide demands under this clause necessary. When the need did arise it was unfortunately just at the time of the Rashid Ali disturbances as a result of which the lines between Baghdad and Mosul and Baghdad and Basra had been cut and a large percentage of railway staff throughout the country had left their posts. Their confidence had first of all to be regained before the railways could operate at even normal capacity.

FALL OF LEGHORN.—Two Navy men studying the plan for restoration of the harbour.

TRAINING SCHOOLS

Then came the problem of working to increased capacity. It was impossible for reinforcements in personnel and additional wagons, stores and locomotives to be immediately brought into the country. To meet urgent needs, the railway administration was obliged to open schools in which Iraqis could be trained as stationmasters, guards, number-takers, signallers, and so on. New stations and crossing points were built up and down the country, and at Basra considerable extension was made to the existing depots and marshalling yards.

When eventually Allied armies did enter the country in large numbers they solved some of the problems by their presence but created others. For example, although the Army was able to supply large numbers of trained railway workers they could speak neither English nor Arabic and eventually the railways were operating with a staff which had almost doubled from 8,000 to 15,000 and which was using Urdu and Polish equally with Arabic and English.

The possibilities of confusion in conditions such as these are obvious and it speaks well for the railways that in spite of them they have managed to carry on without a single accident involving serious loss of life. In some ways it is as hard to run a railway which is not in an area of active operations as it is to run one serving a front line—in fact, it may be harder.

Apart from the steadily increasing volume of military traffic, normal civilian needs had as far as possible to be met and in Iraq this involves, among other things, transporting tens of thousands of pilgrims to Kerbela and other holy cities for various Islamic festivals.

HOSPITAL TRAINS

It was not until about a year ago that the possibility of Iraq becoming an active theatre of operations finally faded into the background and much of the railway directorate's energy between the summer of 1941 and the summer of 1943 was necessarily devoted to preparing for this contingency.

Hospital trains were got ready, A.R.P. precautions arranged (including an A.R.P. Officer on each train) and the whole system geared for an emergency. Naturally, not everything has worked smoothly all the time. The climate of Iraq is one of intense heat in summer and often severe cold in winter (the winter of 1941 was the coldest on record).

In December 1941, the line almost came to a standstill. Many of the additional locomotives which eventually were brought into the country to reinforce existing stocks were old and unreliable and even they were not numerous enough to allow for sufficient time to be devoted to servicing. Fairly frequent breakdowns were inevitable, but never as serious in degree or quantity as it would have been reasonable to expect.

Now Iraq's railways are working smoothly, still carrying munitions, still running special troop trains, still providing civilian passengers with such luxuries as air-conditioned coaches and dining cars. Alongside of this should be remembered the extreme youth of the whole system; the first through train from Baghdad to Basra only ran in 1920 and it was not until 1940 that the line between Baghdad and Mosul which linked Iraq finally with Turkey and Europe was completed.

There are moreover still younger and not less important stretches of line than these. Iraq's railways have had, while still adolescent, to meet a crisis which might well have daunted the oldest established organizations. They and the personnel who run them have come through with flying colours.

THE MAKING OF AN AIRFIELD

By A Yorkshire Post *Special Correspondent*

THE squadron leader said the climb would be well worth-while, so we followed the broad path made by the bull-dozer in its shuttle service up and down a great mound of sand and gravel. It reached high into the interior of a hangar, and from its summit there was an impressive view of purposeful activity on a grand scale, all directed to the one object of producing concrete—thousands of tons of it—for airfield runways.

Dumpers, the modern mecnanized counterpart of the wheelbarrow, scurried about between the pile of ballast on which we were standing and another pile, almost as high, of cement, in the task of keeping pace with the seemingly insatiable needs of a huge concrete mixer, one of the largest ever built, which turns out one and a quarter cubic yards of concrete a minute and a thousand tons a day. In another part of the hangar, a bank of smaller mixers was operating at full pressure helping to maintain the output here at an average of 9,000 tons a week.

ALL IN UNIFORM

The men employed on this work were in R.A.F. uniform.

They were members of the R.A.F. Airfield Construction Service, which, although designed primarily for the construction of airfields, overseas and the rapid repair of airfields in this country damaged by enemy action, is also making a big contribution to the general construction programme to supplement the efforts of civilian contractors.

This new branch of the Royal Air Force consists of wings each containing a plant squadron, whose members operate such heavy equipment as scrapers, excavators, trenchers, concrete mixers, rollers and bull-dozers, and a number of construction squadrons.

2,000 YARDS A DAY

They go into operation in sections of various sizes, depending on the nature of the job, and can build an entire airfield from the initial surveying, excavation and levelling of the land to the construction of runways capable of carrying the heaviest types of bombers now in use and of hangars and other buildings, complete with lighting and other service. Under emergency conditions a squadron can lay a 2,000 yards runway in 24 hours.

Work is allocated to the wings by the Air Ministry Works Directorate, and varies from minor repairs to a major constructional development such as I saw at this North-Eastern airfield. Here the wing commander was given the task of constructing three extensive runways capable of standing up to the strain of use by some of our heaviest aircraft. The work, started last November, is 75 per cent complete, and while it has been going ahead the airfield has never been out of service for aircraft.

MILES OF WIRING

The specification for these runways is a several inches thick layer of concrete over the whole surface, and an expanse of 250,000 square yards of it will be needed for the completed job. All necessary lighting for the outer circle and the runways also is being provided, and this involves the laying of 32 miles of wiring and ducts.

When work of this type is tackled by a civilian contractor employees usually have an incentive for increased production in the form of a bonus scheme. The R.A.F. men on this job also have their bonus scheme, but the reward is in the form of extra time off duty. A target figure is set for each section—concrete mixing, trenching, cable laying, drain laying, and so on—and reaching this means the men in the flight concerned have a few extra hours added to their normal period of one day a week off duty.

Cleverly designed target boards, the work of a sergeant in the construction squadron showing Hitler in a series of uncomfortable positions, record the progress of work during the week.

THIRTY PER CENT INCREASE

The squadron leader in charge of this job told me production had increased by 30 per cent as a result of the introduction of the target system. "This branch involves plenty of hard work," he added, "but the men buckle into it well and produce good results."

The majority of the officers in the construction squadrons are civil engineers and the squadrons also contain a good proportion of skilled tradesmen—electricians, bricklayers, carpenters and plumbers. There are also drawing staffs of civil engineering assistants and architectural draughtsmen, so that units, one of whose essential features is a high degree of mobility, can tackle any airfield construction task without outside assistance.

One of the target boards at the airfield I visited states: "We can't all fly—but we can get 'em off the deck." That is the chief task of the Construction Service, and has become increasingly important with the Second Front begun.

AIRPORTS IN PACKAGES

THE development of "packaged airports"—complete installations of hangars, administrative buildings, radio and weather equipment—that can be ordered by number to suit any location or climate, is announced by the Westinghouse Electric Company. The airports can be delivered by air anywhere in the world.

An article appearing in the metropolitan press said that everything needed for an airfield, except the cement and the site, can now be bought in a complete unit. The prefabricated airports include lighting and power plants, buildings ready to be bolted together, communication, fuelling and fire-fighting equipment and all other elements necessary to complete the installation.

The airports come in different sizes—for instance, four types of hangars and 20 terminal buildings are offered—and variations are provided according to geographical, climatic and economic factors and with reference to availability of electric power and fuel supplies.

For fields serving international travellers, there is a special wing containing space for customs and immigration service, medical examination and other necessities of globe flying.

The packaged airports are designed primarily for airlines' feeder lines or remote operations such as oil, lumber or mining camps, but it is possible they will be sold after the war for private flying fields, resorts and so forth.

THE PACIFIC WAR—(*Continued from page* 13).

"The attack on Guam is being made by Army and Marine Corps troops not previously engaged in the Marianas. The attack on Tinian is being made by the same troops that conquered Saipan. After 24 days of the meanest kind of fighting, through cane-fields and caves, followed by ten days of so-called rest, the same men are in shape to conduct a second major assault. This is an outstanding military achievement.

30,000 DEAD JAPS

"Over 5,000 of our wounded on Saipan already have returned to duty with their units and now are participating in the Tinian attack. This reduces our net losses on Saipan by one-third and speaks volumes for both the morale of our troops and effectiveness of the Medical Corps.

"We have buried a total of 29,720 enemy dead on Saipan and war prisoners numbered 1,707. A total of 14,192 civilians have been interned.

"The number of prisoners taken on Saipan is by far the greatest taken in any operations against the Japanese in the war to date. The figure represents about 8 per cent of the military forces involved and is an unusually high proportion. It shows that while many Japanese are still fanatical, some of them are beginning to face realities of their desperate position.

"A summary of our Saipan campaign shows our losses as follows: killed in action, 3,049; wounded in action, 13,049; missing in action, 365."

HOW INDIA'S LATEST V.Cs. WERE WON

V.C. VILLAGE GREETS HERO'S WIDOW.

Kalanaur, near Rohtak, in the Punjab, is the proudest village in India to-day. It is the home of Jamedar Abdul Hafiz, 9th Jat Regiment, who has been posthumously awarded the V.C. for extreme bravery on the Burma front.

Not only is Jamedar Abdul Hafiz India's ninth holder of the V.C., but he is also the first Muslim to be awarded the supreme honour, a fact in which the villagers take special pride.

The news of the award granted to one of Kalanaur's sons spread rapidly through the village, writes an Indian Army Observer. Soon little knots of people were making their way to Jamedar Abdul Hafiz's house, outside which they stood in respectful silence.

His aged mother, Mussammat Hamiden, and his widow, Mussammat Jugri Begum, holding in her arms her three-months-old baby girl, whom the V.C. hero had never seen, were surrounded by relatives quietly congratulating them.

"I have only one child now," Mussammat Jugri Begum said. "Our two sons died while still babies. We have adopted a nephew; I hope he will be as brave as his uncle."

"Two of my husband's brothers are in the army and soon one of my nephews will be old enough to join up. Naturally he will enrol in the 9th Jat Regiment. Just now he is studying for his matriculation."

Jamedar Abdul Hafiz's mother and widow consented to be photographed with the baby. After all the male members of the family had left Mussammat Jugri Begum lifted her burqa for a few seconds. Proudly she raised her head and looked at the camera.

TWO MORE INDIAN V.Cs.

Jamedar and Sepoy from Burma and Italian Fronts

Two more Indian fighting men, a Jamedar and a sepoy, have won the V.C. They are the Indian Army's ninth and tenth V.Cs. of this war.

The ninth Indian Army V.C. is Jamedar Abdul Hafiz, 9th Jat Regiment, a Mussalman Rajput of village Kalanaur, district Rohtak, Punjab, who wins the award posthumosly for gallantry near Imphal. He is the first Muslim to win the V.C. in this war.

The tenth Indian Army V.C. is Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, a Hindu Ujar of village Bholupura, Karauli State, United Provinces. He wins the award for bravery in Italy. Sepoy Kamal Ram is the 8th Punjab Regiment's second V.C. of this war.

Jamedar Abdul Hafiz led an attack up a steep, bare slope, on which he was mortally wounded. "Prior to the attack he assembled his sections and told them they were invincible," says the citation. "So fierce was the attack, and all his men so inspired by his determination to kill all enemy in sight at whatever cost, that the enemy, who were still in considerable numbers on the position, ran away down the opposite slope.

The complete disregard for his own safety and his determination to capture and hold the position at all costs was an example to all ranks which it would be difficult to equal."

Jamedar Abdul Hafiz was 28 and had been in the army nine years. He leaves a three months old daughter whom he never saw.

Sepoy Kamal Ram single-handed wiped out two machine gun posts, helped destroy another, killed a German officer who was about to shoot him, rushed a house and took ten prisoners.

Sepoy Kamal Ram is aged 20. He has 19 months service.

JAMEDAR'S MERCILESS ATTACK NEAR IMPHAL

Behind the V.C. award to Jamedar Abdul Hafiz is a plain tale of heroism by a man inspired, a man who gave his life for his country on the very border of India, writes an Indian Army Observer. Here is the story, told as it was reported from the battle scene in the hills ten miles north of Imphal.

In the early hours of 6th April, the enemy attacked a standing patrol and took a prominent feature overlooking a company position. Jamedar Abdul Hafiz was ordered to take two sections of his platoon and clear the position.

The artillery had concentrated fire on the feature. At 9-30 a.m. the Jamedar led his men to attack.

He had told them that no Jap could stop them, that however many Japs might be on the feature they would be killed or flee before the Indian's attack. He was a true prophet.

Shouting the battle cry, '*Bolo narae Haideri-ya Ali*', he raced with his men up the hill side, which was quite bare of cover. "It was really a magnificent and heartening sight," said a Major of the battalion afterwards.

The Japs, waiting for them, opened fire with machine-guns and grenades only when they were sure of the range. The Jamedar was wounded in the leg at once. But he went on, seizing a machine-gun by the barrel, while another man killed the gunner.

He took a bren-gun from a wounded man, advanced and killed many of the enemy. He ignored the fire from a machine-gun on another feature on his flank, leading his men on with such ferocity that those Japs who could move fled.

He died, mortally wounded in the chest, on the hill he had taken, still grasping his bren-gun. "Reorganize—I will give covering fire" he shouted. but he could not pull the trigger.

YOUNG V. C. WRITES HOME

Relatives of 20-years-old Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, the Indian Army's tenth V.C. and the youngest Indian soldier to win the award, have received the first letter from him since the deed on the Italian front for which he has won the decoration.

It is in Hindi, written for him by a comrade in his unit, and is addressed to a friend at his home, the tiny village of Bholupura, Karauli State. It is a simple letter from a soldier son to his aged father, a widower, and is intended for the whole village to read—he sends "Ram Rams" to almost all of them by name.

In the letter Kamal Ram says nothing about his exploits; he comments on the news of the village that he has received from the family and asks them questions about his relatives, their cattle, the crops and the weather.

He mentions that out of his soldier's pay he has sent them monthly contributions which up to July had amounted Rs. 142.

The letter is as follows:—

"I am fit and happy here and wish the same to you. I pray to God to grant you good health always. I duly received your letter and was greatly pleased to read it. I got all the news from it.

"Please always worship Hanuman and do remember him. Also remember Kali Devi. I hope that brother Kalwar does not quarrel. Also write if his wife is not quarrelling. Try to live amicably.

"I am serving with great pleasure. I will never disgrace your name. I am at a great distance from you in the Italian Raj. I have good food and I am quite fat.

"Let me know all the news about the cattle, etc. Write also about the health of Gauthoe. Also tell me about the weather. See that the pandit comes and reads to you from the religious books so as to keep the Gods pleased. Remember Kali Devi.

"I note that bajra was sold for Rs. 110 and that 40 maunds of wheat was produced. I see that ten maunds of grain were yielded, 21 maunds of Arhar was also produced and about Rs. 22 worth of sarson was yielded. I observe the current rates of all articles; I also learnt about the sheep and that the she-buffalo is carrying.

"Please keep the blanket carefully. Give uncle my love. I came to know that you have bought one tola of gold.

"Do write if Sheo Narain is in need of money and say in your letter if there is any kind of trouble. I am thinking a lot about you. Do arrange for Ram Bhan's betrothal.

"Take care of your health. I knew that Uncle Dina had had a very good harvest. This has been a good year. Convey my respects to my relatives with folded hands. Please be kind to me. Please excuse the shortcomings of your Kamal Ram."

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

26TH JULY.—Damage and casualties were caused by German flying bombs sent over Southern England including London area. Flying bomb launching sites in Northern France were attacked by R.A.F.

R.A.F. Bombers attacked last night Berlin, Stuttgart, Ruhr, Bremen and Mannheim.

Dr. Goebbels, the newly appointed trustee for Total War Mobilisation, talked to Germans.

27TH JULY.—Last night R.A.F. attacked Hamburg.

28TH JULY.—Flying Fortresses attacked military objectives in Central Germany. Hamburg and Stuttgart were heavily bombed.

29TH JULY.—The Germans sent a large number of robots over Southern England.

More than 1,100 Allied bombers attacked Leuna Synthetic Refinery at Merseburg.

Dr. Goebbels issued his first total mobilisation decree.

30TH JULY.—Allied bombers attacked German long-range robot centres at Pas de Calais area.

Last night R.A.F. aircraft attacked Frantsfurt.

31ST JULY.—The Germans have altered their methods of flying bomb attacks on Southern England and are sending 'salvoes' of flying bombs released simultaneously from a number of launching sites.

More than 1,200 flying fortresses attacked Munich and Augsburg.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

26TH JULY.—The United States Foreign Economic Administrator Mr. Leo T. Crowley announced that Lend-lease shipments of munitions and other war supplies reached the record value of 1,159 million dollars in the pre-invasion month of May.

30TH JULY.—Latest official figures issued by the United States War and Navy Departments show a grand total of 11,484,522 persons of both sexes serving in the United States Armed forces. In 1939 the total number serving in the armed forces was 375,296.

* * *

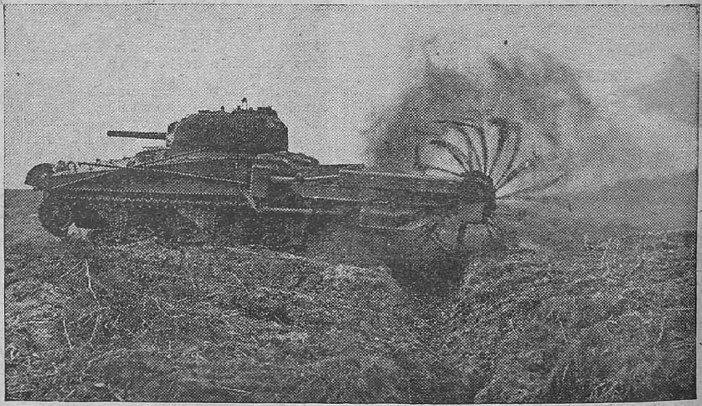
INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

26TH JULY.—Allied assault against the main Japanese defences on the Palel-Tamu Road developed satisfactorily. In the Myitkyina area, minor gains were made.

27TH JULY.—The Japs abandoned Khudei Khulen and Phalbung. Allied troops occupied Laja.

28TH JULY.—Allied attack along the Palel-Tamu Road continued in full strength. Three more positions were taken.

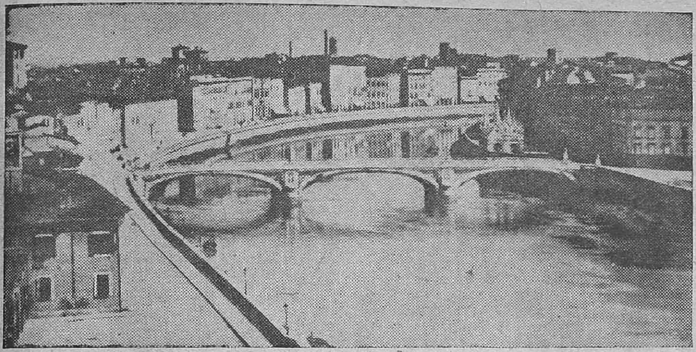
Mr. CHURCHILL'S SECOND VISIT TO NORMANDY.—During his visit to Caen, Mr. Churchill talks with troops who led the D-day assault. General Montgomery is seen on the right.



FIRST PICTURE OF "FLAIL" TANK.—A new type of tank is operating in Normandy. It is known as a flail tank and consists of a tank chassis fitted with a special antimine device. This device projects forward of the tank with chains which whirl like a flail, as the tank advances, exploding any mines in its path.
Picture shows *side view of "Crab" flailing.*

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY.

MADRAS—AUGUST		8th—9-45 p.m.	Topical Talk.
,,	,,	9th—9-45 p.m.	"G.I." Relay from Delhi.
,,	,,	10th—9-00 p.m.	"A Continent in revolt: Yugoslavia"—By A. D. Mangos.
,,	,,	11th—9-45 p.m.	"World Affairs"—Relayed from B.B.C.
,,	,,	12th—9-45 p.m.	"For the Fighting Forces."
,,	,,	14th—9-00 p.m.	"Radio Blitzkrieg"—By A. A. Nair.
,,	,,	15th—9·45 p.m.	Topical Talk.



PISA—A general view showing the Lungarno Regio (Quay) and the Solferino Bridge.

29th JULY.—Fourteenth Army troops were only about seven miles from the Burma frontier. On the Tiddim Road, Churachandrapur has been passed.

30th JULY.—Allied troops were within 8 miles of Tamu.

31st JULY.—On the Tiddim Road, men of an Indian regiment were established Churachandrapur.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

26th JULY.—The Soviet troops captured Narva and Demblin: other places occupied include Narva and Demblin—Other places occupied include Zarechye, Kuprava, Pulavy, Bursztyn, Tysmineica, Nadworna, Delatyn and over 400 localities.

The Polish Cabinet met to discuss Russo-Polish relations.

27th JULY.—The Russians captured *Lvov, Stanislavov Dvinsk* Rezekne, *Bialystok*, Siauliai, Prudnik, Pankinovo and about 900 localities. Russian troops entered *Brest-Litovsk.*

The Polish Premier Maikolajczyk is in Moscow for settling Russo-Polish affairs. An agreement has been signed by Soviet Government with the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

28th JULY.—The Russians captured *Brest-Litovsk* Przemysl and Yaroslav. Germans evacuated Kovno. The Soviet forces captured 350 places north of Dvinsk and 60 places south of Dvinsk.

Marshal Stalin met members of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

29th JULY.—The Soviet troops have reached to 20 miles near Warsaw. More than 400 places were captured.

30th JULY.—Three great battles—for driving the Germans from the Baltic States, for the last approaches to East Prussia and for Warsaw reached a climax.

The Soviet troops captured Bielskis, Ryboly Sredinskaya, Raisk Augustovo, Trawlya, Dolina, Bizai and over 600 localities.

Lieut.-Gen. M. C. Dempsey, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commander of the British 2nd Army in France.

31st JULY.—Russian troops were within 6 miles of Warsaw. Soviet forces captured *Kovno*, Siedlice, Minsk-Mazowiecke, Lukow, Mitau and numerous towns and localities.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

26th JULY.—Allied troops were within 8 miles from Florence.

The Italian Prime Minister, Signor Bonomi made a statement on Foreign policy. His Majesty the King George VI visited troops in Italy yesterday.

27th JULY.—The fall of San Sapolow was imminent.

28th JULY.—The Allied troops captured San Casciano, Vallecchio, Cambiano and Citerna.

29th JULY.—The Eighth Army troops were within two miles of Empoli. Polish troops entered Senigallia.

His Majesty the King George VI continued his visits to troops in Italy.

30th JULY.—Indian troops reached the outskirts of Empoli. It is revealed that two German mines were exploded less than 300 yards from King George at lunch on Friday.

31st JULY.—Indian divisions entered Pesa and Elsa.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

26th JULY.—Heavy fighting continued in twin-battles south-east of Caen and west of St. Lo. The Americans extended their attacks and entered Montrabot. Marigny and St. Gillee were firmly in American hands.

General Eisenhower paid a visit to Normandy on Tuesday.

The Polish Prime Minister met Mr. Churchill last night and discussed Russo-Polish relations.

Vienna and Linz in Austria were attacked by Allied aircraft.

27th JULY.—The Allied troops captured Lessay, Periers, Le Kesnil Herman, Canprond and Canisy.

Budapest and Ploesti were raided by Allied aircraft.

LAST MONTH . . .—

JULY 1st.—Russians captured Borisov.

" 3rd.—Soviet forces captured Minsk.

" 4th.—Red Army captured Polotsk.

" " —The 14th Army captured Ukhrul.

" 7th.—Super Fortresses attacked Japan.

" 9th.—British troops captured Caen.

" 13th.—Russians captured Vilna.

" 16th.—The Eighth Army captured Arezzo.

" 20th.—Attempt on Hitler's life.

" 21st.—Americans captured Leghorn.

" 23rd.—Russians captured Ostrov.

" 24th.—The Soviet forces captured Lublin.

" 26th.—Soviet troops captured Narva.

" 27th.—The Red Army captured Lovov, Stanislavov, Dvinsk and Bialystok.

" 28th.—Russians captured Brest-Litovsk.

" 31st.—Soviet troops captured Kovno.

NEW ZEALAND TROOPS IN ITALY.—Picture shows *a mule team making its way through the mud in a forward position in Italy.*

28TH JULY.—Allied troops captured Tessy-Sur-Vire. United States troops reached St. Denis Le Gast.

29TH JULY.—Allied troops captured Coutances, and St. Jean des Baisants.

30TH JULY.—A new British attack in the Caumont area was launched. Allied forces crossed Sienne in several places. Percy was captured.

The Allied troops captured Percy, Berehal, Gavray, and Ronesy.

31ST JULY.—The Allied troops entered Granville and Avranches. They captured St. German de Ector, Chagney and St. Martin Des Desaces in the Gaumont area. Allied aircraft bombed Bucharest, Ploesti, etc. The Russo-Rumanian peace negotiations broke down.

* * *

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

31ST JULY.—The Swiss Commander-in-Chief, General Henri Gainsan in an announcement says, "We are advising every country that our Alpine passes are sealed—and not only the Alpine passes but every other part of the country protected by the Alps."

* * *

THE FAR EAST

26TH JULY.—Allied aircraft raided Palau and Yap islonds in the Western Carolines.

Allies bombarded Sabang on Tuesday.

27TH JULY.—The American forces have conquered a northern quarter of Tinian island. The Americans dominate the west coast of Guam.

28TH JULY.—It is announced that British submarines operating in the Eastern waters destroyed 24 Jap supply vessels and bombarded Sibolga on the north-east coast of Sumatatra Ross island and Port Blair.

Admiral Mountbatten has sent congratulations to Admiral Sir James Somerville, Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet, on the great success of the Eastern Fleets' operations against Sabang.

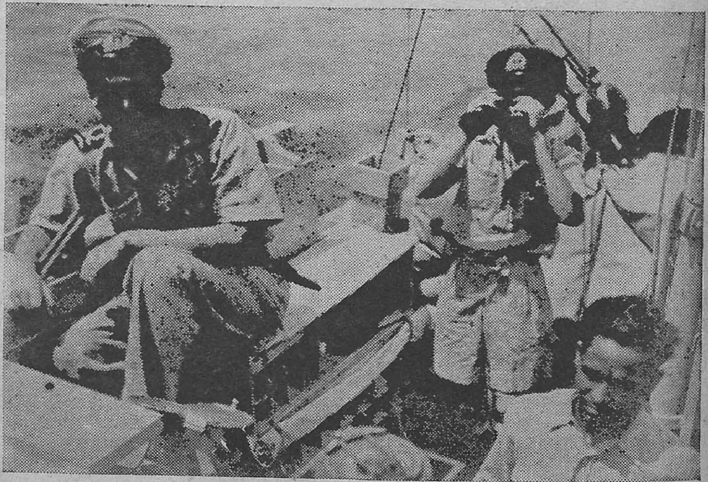
29TH JULY.—United States Forces in Guam captured Mount Tenjo, Alutan and Chacha. On Tinian island, marines captured an airfield above the Gurguan point.

Allied aircrat attacked Mukden area. Anshan and Penhishu were also raided. Tienstin and Tangky in occupied areas were also bombed by Allied planes.

30TH JULY.—Lolobata, Galela and Miti, Jap airfields in Halmahera island were attacked by Allied bombers. United States troops captured Orote in Guam. In Tinian, Americans control two-thirds of the island.

31ST JULY.—Allied aircraft attacked military objectives in Wewak, Rabaul, Bougainville and Timor.

Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Fleet in Succession to Admiral Sir James F. Somerville.



IN INDIAN WATERS.—*A sharp look-out is kept on the bridge of one of the ships.*

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